

Contest Rules and Guidelines

U.S. entries must be postmarked by February 15. International entries must be received by March 1.

Entries may be sent in at any time throughout the year.

1. The contest is open to youth who are age 5-19, on the February 15 deadline date. Youth older than 19 who are still enrolled in high school are eligible, but college students, even if 19 or younger, are not. Entrants need not submit work through their school; individual submissions are also accepted (Please see Frequently Asked Questions for clarification on these categories).
2. Youth may enter the contest as many times as they like, but a separate entry form *must* be completed for each submission.
3. All entrants will receive a Watershed Explorer Certificate.
4. All poems must be original work. Written poetry must be either typed (preferred) or legibly written in ink (pencil does not photocopy); ASL poetry must be submitted on VHS videotape. **Poems should not exceed 32 lines in length (written) or 3 minutes (signed).** The student's name, school, city and state should be included on the poem, and a completed Entry Form should be attached. For ASL poetry, please include a brief written summary of the poem's content, and staple this summary to your entry form. For written poems, please staple the Entry Form to the poem so that each piece faces out. Collaborative poems are accepted, but only one child (chosen as the group representative) will be eligible for any prizes awarded. *We are able to accept poems only in English, Spanish and American Sign Language.*
5. All artwork must be original work. **Artwork should not exceed 11" by 17" in size-no exceptions.** Acceptable media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, crayon, chalk or pastel (fixed), photography, cloth, collage and computer art. All entries must contain the student's name, school, city and state on the back — do not use a marker or anything that will show through! A completed entry form must also be affixed to the back of each piece of artwork. Please attach the entry form with tape or other fixative (if using glue, be careful to use one that will not run through and damage the artwork) — also, do not use paperclips! High quality color reproductions of prize-winning artwork will be provided to their respective creators.
6. Art entries must be done on paper that will allow for duplication, display or framing. Please, no notebook or typing paper, and do not

mat, mount, laminate, frame or fold artwork. Entries must be mailed flat or rolled in a tube — no folding, please!

7. Submissions become property of River of Words. Through submission of poetry or artwork, contestants and their legal guardians grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted, which will not be returned.
8. All U.S. entries must be postmarked by February 15, and must be received by February 22. International entries must be received by March 1. We are not responsible for entries that are late or lost in the mail. Entries received after the deadline will be automatically entered in next year's contest.
9. Winners will be announced in April of each year.* Winners must sign an acceptance form. For a list of winners, please include a self-addressed, stamped (55 cent) envelope when sending in your entry.
10. Grand prize: round trip transportation from the winner's nearest major airport to Washington, D.C. for the winner and one parent or guardian. Prize is not redeemable for cash. Accommodations and some meals will also be provided. Taxes and all other expenses are the responsibility of the winner. Winners must be available for travel sometime in April or May.**

**River of Words reserves the right to not award a Grand Prize winner in any given category if no entry merits such designation.*

***International winners may be acknowledged at the Awards Ceremony for the following year's contest, if international travel logistics cannot be worked out in a timely manner.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST RIVER OF WORDS INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS,
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